



Deadly Dram

Melinda Mullet

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Distillery owner Abigail Logan discovers that high spirits are no match for a cold-blooded killer as the Whisky Business Mystery series puts a fatal twist on stiff competition.

It's been a year since globe-trotting photojournalist Abi Logan inherited Abbey Glen, a whisky distillery in the heart of the Scottish countryside. To her surprise, the village of Balfour already feels like home, and her new business partner, Grant MacEwan, continues to be too charming to resist. But Abi has a history of relationship disasters, so she struggles to avoid an ill-fated romance with Grant. Steering clear is hard enough on a day-to-day basis, but when the two head off to a whisky industry competition together, Abi panics. Five-star resort, four glorious days of nonstop whisky tasting, and a fatally attractive Scotsman—what could possibly go wrong?

The night before the award presentations, with foreign and domestic whisky makers at one another's throats, two judges are found dead under mysterious circumstances. What started with three dream-come-true nominations for Abby Glen's whisky soon turns into a nightmare for Abi. With a killer on the loose, she must call on her investigative skills to stop another murder—before she gets taken out of the running herself.

Deadly Dram Details

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Author : Melinda Mullet

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From Reader Review Deadly Dram for online ebook

James says

Deadly Dram is the third book in the Whisky Business cozy mystery series written by Melinda Mullet and was published in 2018. The series takes place in Scotland with a focus on Abi Logan who's returned home from a photojournalism job to address the death of her uncle. In this third book, Abi's been co-running the distillery and is on a business trip to attend an award ceremony that might earn her company and whisky a valued prize. Members of the judging committee are murdered one by one which leaves Abi worried for her best friend, Patrick, who's now on the committee to make a final decision.

When I read the first book in the series, I was enamored with the culture, characters, charm, and setting of the books. I got pulled in many directions with other required reads and didn't catch up until recently on the second and third books, but I'm glad I did. They're just as wonderful (if not more) and really leave me thirsting for the fourth one which hopefully comes out in mid-2019. You're immediately transported to Scotland between the language, the background, and the complexity in all the relationships. I would love to read this book while driving around a distillery one day in the future just to feel even more connected.

The mystery is very strong. There are multiple suspects with a variety of motives. Just when you start suspecting someone, they end up dead. The side stories are intricately woven into the main story and ultimately all collide together. The romance angles are downplayed in the book, but there's a few sparks Abi shares with others. (When's Patrick gonna get his flirt on?) Liam (the dog) has a huge role and is such a well-fleshed out character, I could feel him running around at the inn. He might have been my favorite. Kudos to Mullet for giving me a fantastic Monday afternoon read and bringing me out of a small reading slump.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Abigail Logan still has a lot to learn about being a distillery owner but she is really making herself at home in Balfour. She is trying to keep her mind on Whisky business, but when she and her business partner, Grant MacEwan attend a whisky competition at a 5-star resort she may not be able to resist his charms. Then before the Golden Quaich competition begins, where several Abbey Glen Whiskys are up for awards 2 of the judges are killed. DI Ian Michaelson asks for Abi's help as a photographer to take pictures of the crime scenes. Her keen observation skills see things other people don't and she soon finds herself investigating. If she is not careful, she may be the killer's next victim.

Abigail Logan is a wonderful protagonist. Smart, strong, and independent. She has taken on the job as owner of the distillery quite well. She has a great team helping her and teaching her everything about the whiskey business. She is still trying to keep Grant in the friend zone, but there is no denying the chemistry there. Grant stole my heart long ago so I am rooting for them to have a relationship that works. Her friend Patrick redeemed himself for me in this story. I wasn't so fond of him in the last one. I really enjoy the friendship between Abi and Katherine McRae. Their shopping trip to get Abi the right clothes was fun to read. I also enjoyed that the resort allowed pets so Liam could go too. He was on his best behavior, for the most part ?

The story is set at a whisky convention so we are introduced to several characters. The author does an

excellent job of making them each unique so I was able to get to know them pretty quickly. There was a character that returned from a prior story too, it was great to have him cross Abi's path again. As always a certain 4-legged character gives the story some laughs.

I love the way she sets a scene. She describes everything in a way that puts you right there in the room or out in the countryside. She also educates her readers about Whisky and I love learning new things when I am reading. I like whiskey but have never had Scottish whisky. I may have to rectify that soon.

This mystery had a whole resort full of suspects, some were easily eliminated but others needed more investigation. Ms. Mullet has a great talent for misdirecting her readers which makes following along with Abi and her friends so entertaining. She ratchets up the suspense at the perfect time and gives readers a great conclusion. She also gives us just a little cliffhanger that leaves us longing for the next book.

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For me, this was A Perfect Escape!! A stellar mystery with great characters set in a beautiful place. I can't wait for my next visit! Died in the Wool: A Whisky Business Mystery comes out May 14, 2019.

Jessica Robbins says

*I received a free copy of this book which I voluntarily chose to write an honest review for.

What a wonderful cozy mystery with a nice whiskey theme to it. I learned quite a bit about the entire process while reading it I must say. Abigail is on her way to a fancy lodge for an award competition for the distillery. Nervous enough about going to begin with things just get worse when Liam starts causing his own brand of trouble. As if that is not enough the judges start dropping like flies and a surprise victim as well just to make things a little more emotionally wrenching for Abi. This is a very well written mystery peppered with details amongst the suspense, laughter, and intrigue. The mix of it all creates a truly wonderful cozy that you will not want to put down. I highly recommend it to fans of the genre. I really liked it so I give it 4/5 stars.

Deranged Dreamer says

Better than the last one.

But the love triangle plot is awful.

We already have enough going against them, all the killings, her job, her neurosis. Why add another person in the mix?

I might not read the next one.

Mellie Antoinette says

"It's always the staff that takes the blame."

Another solid entry in the Whiskey Business Mysteries and I have to say authoress Melinda Mullet is a whiz kid on the branding side - intriguing cover art, careful honed mysteries all neatly tying under the scotch business model and Grant MacEwan! ♥? Love from your Bunny Girl, Mellie! Yes, I'm aware your fictional. More's the pity!

Bless you #netgalley for an #arc of this wicked mystery!

Diana says

I like the series and the characters but I can't understand why there have to be a triangle setting between Grant and Abi. I wished that would stop in all the cozy mystery series. Didn't you have other ideas to make the two of them work? I don't like to read something like that and I really don't know if book 4 is on my preorder list for long.

Gail C. says

I would give this 4 and a half stars if that were an option.

Sometimes you just want a simple murder, or two, perpetrated in the company of interesting characters, some likeable some not so much, and all wrapped up in a welcoming setting that beckons you to come inside and spend some time. That's what Deadly Dram by Melinda Mullet was for me. It was a welcome respite, the perfect stress reliever; like curling up in front of a warm fire in a pair of comfy sweats in winter or sitting out on the balcony of a beachside condo with a relaxing cup of coffee in summer.

When the book opens, Abi Logan, former award-winning news photographer and newly minted distillery owner, is preparing to attend the judging and awards ceremony for the year's best Scotch whiskey which this year is being held at a posh resort in Scotland. She and Liam, her delightfully engaging Wheaten terrier, check in to the dog-friendly resort and settle in for a few days of luxurious living, whiskey sampling and, of course, a couple of murders to add to the enjoyment.

As expected, this is a mystery novel after all, one of the guests is murdered and suspicions abound as to why. Is it because of rivalries between Scottish distilleries and newcomer foreign one? Is it the age-old issue of money and inheritance? Is it something else more obscure? Initially Abi is drawn in partially because her friend is in the group of suspects and partially because she was asked to photograph the scene of the crime by the police detective in charge of the case.

The means for the murder is clear, nicotine poisoning, it's the motive and opportunity that Abi spends her time exploring. As in any good mystery novel, clues and red herrings abound with Abi traveling first down one path and then another. The final piece of the puzzle isn't revealed until the last night of the competition and Abi is pressed into action to prevent yet another murder.

This is the third in a series of books featuring Abi, but it stands alone with ease. You do not need to read the first two in order to enjoy the mystery. There are some interesting secondary characters who help round out the story, although they don't get much attention and as such their depth is more hinted at than fully explored. There is also a love story that is left hanging which adds little to the story and serves more as a hook for the next book in the series. These are minor detractions and do not negatively impact the enjoyment

of the murder and its solution as the reader is given ample opportunity to solve the question of “who done it” before reaching the denouement.

Thank you to NetGalley and Random House Publishing Group - Alibi for providing this advanced digital copy in exchange for an honest review. Overall, this is an outstanding example of cozy fiction, well written and smart. If the first two Whiskey Business Mysteries are as well-written, this is series well-worth exploring.

Yvonne says

Abigail Logan inherited a distillery from her beloved uncle a year ago. She already feels like part of the small Scottish town. Now, she’s thrown into the middle of a whisky competition and things get really heated when two judges are murdered. Abi throws herself right into the middle of the investigation since many of the suspects are good friends of hers. She is determined to get to the bottom of this.

To add a little more excitement to Abi’s life, her handsome business partner is getting harder to resist all the time. After some bad relationships in her past, Abi is not all that anxious to get involved with another guy. However, she can’t seem to get Grant out of her mind.

This is the third book in the Whisky Business Mystery series. I loved the first book, but I haven’t had a chance to read the second one yet. It didn’t matter to me,,,I enjoyed this one very much. The author includes info throughout the book about incidents that occurred previously, so I never felt like I was in the dark.

The author did a great job of transporting me to Scotland and putting me right in the middle of all the action. I felt as if I was right by Abi’s side as we tried to figure out who the killer was. I got it partially correct, but I didn’t put all the pieces together until Abi did at the end.

It’s a captivating mystery with a cast of characters that are true-to-life and sometimes even a bit offbeat. Abi also has a lovable dog named Liam, who accompanies her most of the time. He does manage to get himself in quite a bit of trouble, although he’s also a good partner for Abi’s investigative ways.

Overall, this is an engrossing mystery which is solved in this book. The mystery doesn’t carry over to the next book, although the personal relationships do. I always feel series books are more enjoyed when you start with the first one, but it’s really not necessary if you are looking for a good mystery. I’m greatly anticipating the next book in this series.

FTC Disclosure: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are my own.

JoAnne McMaster (Any Good Book) says

Abi Logan is a photojournalist who has just returned from a month in Iceland. After being home for a few days she's starting to rethink her career choices, especially since she's inherited a distillery that's one of the best in Scotland. She's also attracted to her partner Grant McEwan, who hasn't hidden the fact that he's attracted to her as well. But since she has a lousy relationship history (she, for some reason, doesn't think this has to do with her traveling all the time!) she's determined to stay away from him.

So it's that much harder when they, along with her friend Patrick, have to attend a whisky industry competition together. Armed with a new wardrobe (with the help of the local veterinarian) she's sure everything will go swimmingly. But when someone is killing off the judges and Patrick looks as if he might be the culprit, Abi must use all her sleuthing ability to ferret out a murderer before he's the one losing everything..

I really wanted to like this book, and for the most part I did. Ms. Mullet draws beautiful descriptions of everything going on around Abi, of the countryside, etc.; so much so that you can imagine being there yourself. Her characterizations of people are also wonderful, giving us a feeling for who they are. I liked the plot line, and thought everything was very well written.

However, I don't know if I'll read any more in this series, and the reasons why are in spoilers below (since I don't want to ruin this for those who have not read it as yet):

(view spoiler)

If you've read the spoiler, then you know my final thoughts on the book and the ending, so there isn't much left to say. Other than that, if you're inclined this is a decent book that can be read in one sitting.

Sue Em says

Abigail Logan, co-owner of Abbey Glen Distillery, attends a special whiskey competition at a luxury resort with her partner, Grant, and dog, Liam. Unfortunately, some of the judges are dying in dubious circumstances. As she tries to get a toehold in the male-dominated whiskey distillery business, it becomes necessary to investigate to keep her friends and her friends safe. The setting in Scotland provides an interesting background, The characters developed and interesting, and the plot fair and intriguing. Well done! I'll be back for Abi's next adventure.

Thanks to netgalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Betty says

The third book in the Whiskey Business Mystery has Abi Logan attending a 4 days of competition of

Whiskey makers at a 5 star resort. Abby Glen has several nominations. She takes her dog, Liam who soon is known throughout the meeting because of his antics. Grant MacEwan, her business partner is next door to her. Before the judging begins two of the judges are poisoned with nicotine. Abi works with homicide detective as he is short of staff. Finding a motive is difficult as the judges had no enemies were well like by their peers. Liam is enjoying himself running with the kennel dogs and getting treats from all the participants. Will Lindsey and her friends managed to save a life? I am looking forward to, the next book.

Disclosure: Many thanks to Alibi for a review copy. The opinions expressed are my own.

Peggy R says

This is a series that has quickly become one I look forward to reading. It has a unique theme, the characters are smart, mature and the mysteries always keep me engaged. Abi is a smart, mature, independent woman who makes a good amateur sleuth. Her profession as a journalist has given her insight into human nature which she often relies on in conjunction with Detective Michelson's reliance on evidence to help solve the mystery. The mystery kept me engaged with the twist and turns throughout the story. The killer's identity, for me, was a surprise but the motive behind the killings was believable resulting in a satisfactory ending.

I will be back to see what the author has in store next for these characters. I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the publisher, Alibi, through Netgalley.

Tari says

This installment found Abi and Grant away from their home estates at a luxury hotel where a distillery competition was taking place. It was a huge honor for Abbey Glen to have been nominated, and Abi hoped she'd represent her business well. Her friend Patrick was there as usual. And as usual, there were a couple of murders of two of the competition judges to solve.

By now, Deputy Inspector Michaelson had come to (he wouldn't admit it though) depend on Abi for her insight since she was formerly a photo journalist. This book had them almost seeming like friends, and Michaelson seemed more human when he shared his personal issue of his daughter turning 14 and the fact that he had no idea what to do for her or get her.

It was well-written and plotted as were the first two in the series, and everything was wrapped up and explained. I did have an idea of who the killer might be, but it was honestly a guess since everyone was concentrating harder on other suspects. I didn't have a clue what the reason would be, so it was still a pretty cool showdown. Poor Abi seems so unlucky in love. Once again she's not be interested in Grant when she should have been. Maybe in the next book? I loved that Liam her Wheaton terrier got to go to the hotel too and even had some playdates with the hunting dogs there.

Juli says

Deadly Dram is the 3rd book in the Whisky Business Mystery series. Abi Logan is still trying to make a name for herself in the whisky business after she inherited her uncle's distillery, Abbey Glen, 9 months ago.

The good old boys network in the business (she calls them the Barley Bunch) just don't think a woman should be a distillery owner. She runs Abbey Glen with Grant MacEwen, her business partner, who is a magician with whisky. This year, everyone is pleased that Abbey Glen is up for 3 awards at the Golden Quaich Competition at a nearby 5-star resort. The distilleries aren't just in Scotland. There are whiskys competing from Ireland, India, Japan and other countries as well. Some of the Scottish distilleries are grumbling about foreigners being allowed to compete. Things get even more dicey when one of the event judges, Sir Richard Simpson, is found dead in his room. Local Detective Inspector Ian Michaelson suspects foul play. Was Simpson killed because he clearly was in favor of foreign distilleries competing in the Gold Quaich Awards? Did someone just intend to make him ill to throw off the competition, but accidentally go too far? Or is something more complex afoot?

I like this series. My favorite character is, of course, Liam...abi's wheaten terrier. And his friend Oscar the Sheep is a close second. ha ha :) I'm a sucker for cozies with cute animal antics in them. Liam is quite the cute little guy. Abi is an intelligent and resourceful main character. She has a great working relationship with Grant MacEwan, although their personal relationship is a bit confused. There is a bit of the relationship triangle plot device starting to come through in this series. That is one trope that I wish cozy writers would stop using. Surely there is another way to create a bit of romantic tension or slow relationship building between main characters without resorting to the Triangle Trope. Ugh. That's my only complaint about this latest book. Besides my eyeroll at the triangle starting to pop out on the horizon, I loved this entire book. The characters are interesting and nicely developed. The whisky background theme doesn't overpower the mystery, but adds to it. The romance hints are kept in the background, with the mystery being in the forefront. The plot moved at a nice pace, with plenty of interesting suspects and some twists I didn't see coming at all. Loved it! I will definitely keep reading this series. I love the setting, the information on whisky and distilling, and the characters. :)

The next book in the series, *Died in the Wool*, will be out in May 2019.

****I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book from Random House Publishing/Alibi via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.****

Fred says

Deadly Dram is the third book in the Whisky Business Mystery series.

Time is getting close for the annual Golden Quaich Awards for the best Whiskys. Grant MacEwen, manager/co-owner of Abbey Glen Distillery and Cam Lewis, the distiller, have finally convinced Abi that she needs to attend, especially since Abbey Glen is up for the top award this year. As Abi is greeting friends from the past and making new ones, she soon learns that there seems to be those in attendance that feel the awards should be for Scotch produced in Scotland. She also gets the impression that possibly there is a plan to make sure Scotland brewed Scotch will win. Soon the body of Sir Richard Simpson is found dead in his room by the maid, Sophie. An autopsy shows that he had died of nicotine poisoning. Detective Inspector Ian Michaelson arrives to begin his investigation and, since he has worked with Abi before, asks her to take pictures of the room and to keep her ears open for any information that might be helpful. Then a second judge is killed in the same manner. Michaelson and Abi are stymied as to whether these deaths are related to the award program or possibly a business transaction that happened to involve the two judges.

The story is well written and plotted and has a wonderful cast of believable characters. Abi's adorable dog,

Liam, is back once again to provide some lighter moments.

I'm looking forward to the next to next book in this great series. I'm anxious to see what is happening with Abi and Grant.
